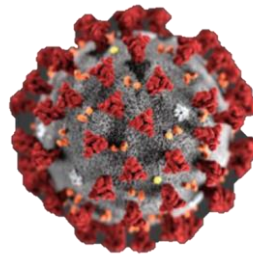


# New Hampshire COVID-19 Education and Childcare Partner Call

February 23, 2022



# Education and Childcare Partner Call Schedule

- 2/16 and 3/2 calls are cancelled
- Next webinar will be 3/16 from 3:30-4:30 pm
- Webinar/call information:
  - Zoom link: <https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/98062195081>
  - Webinar ID: 980 6219 5081
  - Passcode: 197445
  - Telephone: 646-558-8656

# COVID-19 Vaccine for Children 6 Months Through 4 Years of Age

# Pfizer and BioNTech Provide Update on Rolling Submission for Emergency Use Authorization of Their COVID-19 Vaccine in Children 6 Months Through 4 Years of Age

Friday, February 11, 2022 - 01:30pm

“Given that the study is advancing at a rapid pace, the companies will wait for the three-dose data... The companies expect to have three-dose protection data available in early April.”

<https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-provide-update-rolling-submission>

# COVID-19 Prevention Strategies in K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs

# COVID-19 Prevention Strategies

- Promote vaccination
- Face mask use
- Physical distancing and cohorting
- Screening testing
- Increasing ventilation
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Staying home when sick and getting tested
- Isolation and quarantine
- Cleaning and disinfection

# COVID-19 Prevention and Risk

- NH DPHS has historically based recommendations on the “level of community transmission” as a surrogate for COVID-19 risk
  - As risk decreases, prevention strategies can be relaxed
- **Current community transmission metrics are based on COVID-19 incidence and test positivity, but no longer accurately reflect risk**
- Prevention strategies should take into account:
  - Disease severity
  - Differences in risk for different populations (e.g., people who are immunocompromised)
  - Acceptability and sustainability of prevention strategies

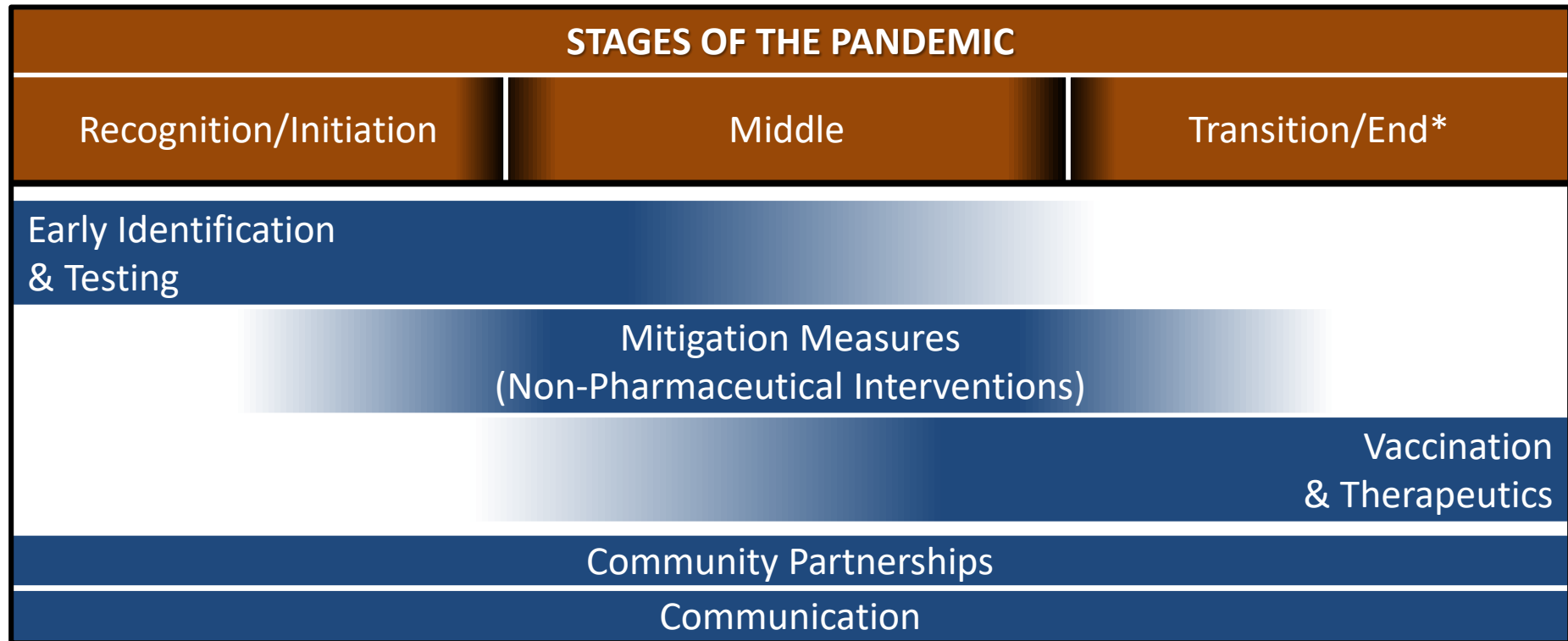
# Evolving COVID-19 Prevention Strategies

(From *webinar on 9/15/2021*)

- Once vaccination is available for school aged children, and children have had the opportunity to be vaccinated we will transition away from relying on mitigation measures
- Mitigation measures are intended to be a temporizing bridge until we can vaccinate younger age groups
- We can also relax prevention strategies when community transmission is lower, which will happen more quickly when people get vaccinated



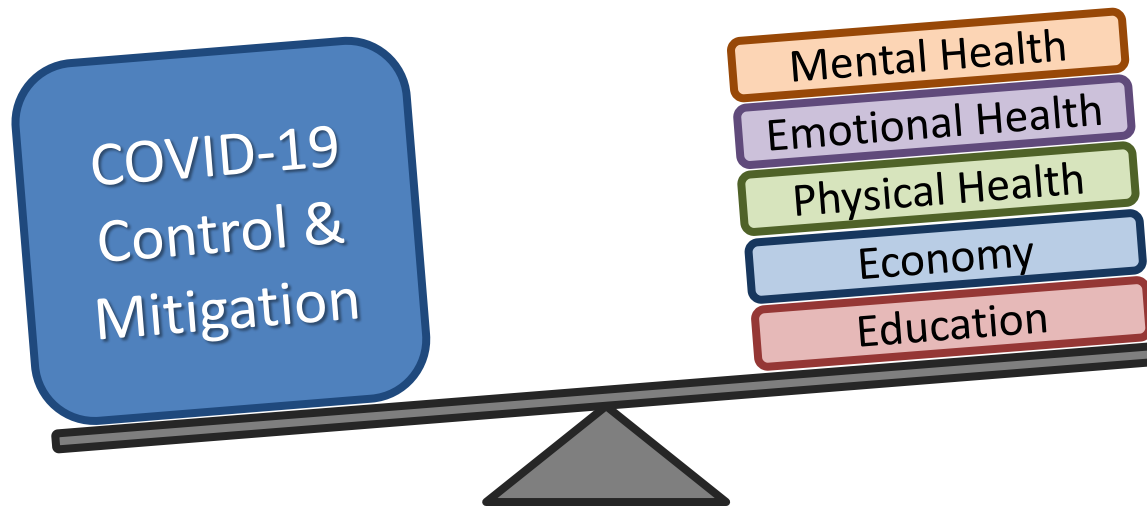
# Pandemic Response Changes Over Time



\* “End” indicates a formal end to the pandemic, not an end to circulation of SARS-CoV-2

# Balancing Competing Priorities

- Need to balance pandemic control with other health priorities
- The goal is overall population health protection and promotion



# Current Situation

- Omicron surge is decreasing in NH and nationally
- As population immunity increases, there has been a decline in severity of COVID-19
- COVID-19 vaccination has been available to all school-age children since the beginning of November 2021
- COVID-19 is expected to continue to circulate (it remains uncertain what the future “baseline” might be)
- Risk is decreasing

February 21, 2022

# Severity of Hospitalizations from SARS-CoV-2 vs Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection in Children Aged 5 to 11 Years in 11 US States

William Encinosa, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Jessica Figueroa, MS<sup>2</sup>; Youssef Elias, MD, PhD<sup>3</sup>

*JAMA Pediatr.* Published online February 21, 2022. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2021.6566

- Inpatient data from 11 states in the U.S.
- Compared COVID-19 hospitalizations in Jan-Mar 2021 to Influenza and RSV hospitalizations in Jan-Mar 2017
- COVID-19 and MIS-C hospitalizations (combined) occurred at a rate of 10.8 per 100,000 children
- Influenza and RSV hospitalizations occurred at a rate of 17.0 and 6.2 hospitalizations per 100,000 children, respectively

# Face Mask Recommendations

- NH DPHS is no longer recommending universal masking
- NH DOE will be sending out a communication to schools by the end of the day

# Important Face Mask Considerations

- Per [CDC's Order](#), face masks must still be worn on public transportation, including school buses
- Face masks should still be worn to shorten isolation and quarantine to 5 days (see [isolation & quarantine guidance](#))
- People who are severely immunocompromised should still consider wearing a face mask for their own protection when in indoor public locations
- Anybody who wants additional protection for themselves or others in their home can choose to wear a face mask when in indoor public locations

# Continue Other Infection Prevention Measures

- [Increase ventilation](#) in classrooms and buildings
- Frequent hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette
- Exclude and test children, students, staff who develop new and unexplained symptoms of COVID-19
- Cohorting in childcare programs (to the extent possible)
- Isolation and quarantine (see [NH guidance](#)) for people infected with COVID-19 and household contacts who are not [up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- Consider asymptomatic screening testing

# Existing COVID-19 Risk

- There likely will always be risk from COVID-19
- There needs to be reasonable and sustainable approaches to managing COVID-19
- This increasingly will rely on vaccination and population immunity
- We continue to maintain surveillance for new variants and changes in community risk
- The public health community continues to assess and discuss how best to measure and track COVID-19 risk



# Q&A

# Education and Childcare Partner Call Schedule

- 2/16 and 3/2 calls are cancelled
- Next webinar will be 3/16 from 3:30-4:30 pm
- Webinar/call information:
  - Zoom link: <https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/98062195081>
  - Webinar ID: 980 6219 5081
  - Passcode: 197445
  - Telephone: 646-558-8656